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(54) **Urine collection meter with improved drain construction**

(57) A urine meter (10) is provided for use in a urine collection system. The urine meter includes a housing (12) defining at least one fluid receptacle (16) and having a concave upper wall (30) having first and second ends and a central portion of reduced height. The housing defines first and second drain openings (40a,40b) positioned adjacent respect ends of the upper wall. The housing also defines an inlet port (32) extending through the central portion of the upper wall. A drain tube (80) having a discharge end is positioned through the inlet port to direct fluid into the fluid receptacle. The drain tube has an internal surface having substantially no discontinuities. In one embodiment, the housing defines a centrally located first fluid receptacle (16) and a second fluid receptacle (18) which is positioned about the first fluid receptacle.

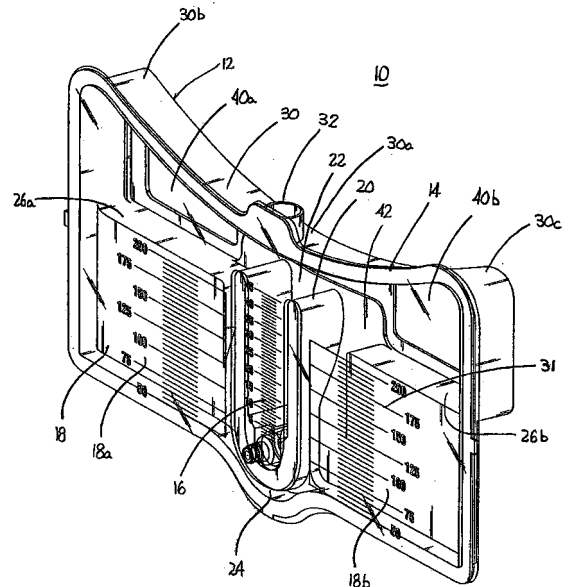


FIG. 1

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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X	US 4 305 405 A (MEISCH CHARLES E) 15 December 1981 (1981-12-15) * column 3, line 36 - column 4, line 20; figures 3-5 * -----	14,20	
A	WO 85/05550 A (MEDIPLAST AB [SE]) 19 December 1985 (1985-12-19) * page 3; figures 1,2 * -----	1	
A	US 4 712 567 A (GILLE HENRICK K [US] ET AL) 15 December 1987 (1987-12-15) * the whole document * -----	1	
A	US 4 109 530 A (KIM HYUN JUNG) 29 August 1978 (1978-08-29) * the whole document * -----	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A61F A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 11 December 2007	Examiner Lickel, Andreas
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-13

Urine meter comprising a housing having, among others, an upper wall having a substantially concave shape with a central portion having a height which is less than the height of the first and second ends of the upper wall, said central portion comprising an opening defining the inlet port, and a substantially transparent faceplate enclosing the housing.

2. claims: 14-19

Urine meter comprising, among others, a drain tube having a discharge end, extending through the inlet port and having an internal surface which is continuous and substantially absent any discontinuities.

3. claim: 20

Urine meter comprising, among others, a housing defining at least one fluid receptacle and further defining a recessed channel positioned about at least one drain opening.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 25 0781

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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11-12-2007

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82